



JORNADA CONTINENTAL RESPONSES AND HORIZONS FOR BUILDING TOGETHER, IN FACE OF THE GLOBAL CRISIS UNLEASHED BY NEOLIBERALISM

The organizations and movements that are part of the *Jornada Continental* for Democracy and against Neoliberalism understand that the current global health crisis is a consequence of the neoliberal economic model, which is making evident the failure of privatization policies; the reduction of the State; the precarization of work and the greater exploitation of female labor; the debts increase; the commodification and monetization of nature; racism; violence against women; the criminalization of defenders; and all the atrocities that the capitalist system implies. Nonsensical facts, which are intended to deepen with the contemporary crisis, have become again the burden of the working class and of all those popular political actors struggling against the model of multiple dominations.

From our perspective, this crisis can only be confronted with a systemic response; one based on building peoples' sovereignty and social, environmental, economic and gender justice, which will allow us to tackle capitalism, since it has become evident that free market economics is the problem, and by no means it can be the solution.

The measures that have been taken to address the pandemic, although they may have a nuanced approach compared to countries such as Argentina, Cuba, and Venezuela, for example, in many other countries in the region, those measures have authoritarian features. These features are aligned with imperialism and the economic powers, which clearly contempt people's lives, while increasing the

powers and privileges of transnational corporations. We denounce that business sectors in several of our countries, together with conservative, right, and ultra-right governments, are taking advantage of the pandemic to advance their agenda of precarization of work and exploitation of millions of women and men, using digital platforms, teleworking, and domestic work to increase their profit based on workers' hunger and misery. In particular, we denounce the ways in which the Brazilian government has taken advantage of the pandemic to deepen its authoritarian and fascist character, condemning the Brazilian people to a genocide that has already taken more than 100,000 lives, as the government continues its attacks against the working class.

As a continental articulation, we express our strong rejection of and denounce the brutal economic blockades and sanctions imposed on Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua, that historically, and more cruelly in times of a global health crisis, deny the rights of peoples and the human rights of the population. We denounce the violent and mercenary actions, and the complicity of the governments of the region and the EU, which have turned a blind eye to these crimes against the peace, stability, and sovereignty of these nations. We reject the racist expressions that have increased in the context of the pandemic, manifested both in the deepening of the structural inequalities that we have denounced, and in the actions of violence against the Afro-descendant population, mainly in the United States and Brazil. We stand in solidarity with the peoples who are organizing to reject all forms of racism and in defense of life.

We demand the suspension and non-payment of the foreign debt, and the cessation of the financing to international banks and other large projects that are affecting women and men in the

countryside and in the city, causing forced displacements and deaths, and that are putting our people at greater risk and vulnerability during this pandemic threat. We denounce the return of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB) as “saviors” for the region, as their “credit portfolios” again bring more economic adjustments, anti-peoples reforms, and infinite indebtedness for our peoples.

We reject and denounce the impact that the acquisition and payment of illegal, illegitimate, and immoral debts entail in the lives of people and nature, that is, in the living collective spaces. We do this based on the acknowledgement that it is the peoples who are the creditors and, therefore, we demand that the resources be used to meet the basic needs of the population; we also demand that no new debts be generated in this context that has been aggravated by COVID-19.

It is precisely agribusinesses and the production of agricultural commodities that, in the economic vicious circle to favor the transnational apparatus, affect public



health in the same ways that the energy-mining model has done in recent decades, resulting in the loss of livelihoods and natural habitats that make the already impoverished and deprived populations, who are also the recipients of the consequences of climate injustice, even more prone to infection. We are witnessing a scandalous increase in transnational corporations' profits in the pharmaceutical sector and in the large service platforms, which are getting richer from the measures adopted during the health crisis.

We denounce that women are facing an increase in violence and femicides under the stay-at-home directives, which have forced them to live with their aggressors and perpetrators with no other option, given the general confinement measures. We point out that, in the absence of a government response in the majority of the countries in the region, millions of families are being forced to go out in order to obtain essential goods such as food, medicine, and water, thus exposing themselves to the pandemic as they are faced with the dilemma of dying from necessity or dying from the virus. Callous governments and economic sectors are pressing for the economy to be reactivated, without caring for workers' lives and health.

The criminalization and murder of activists causes us concern and indignation. In countries like Colombia, more than 100 of them have been murdered since March, and in countries like Honduras and Mexico, murders, kidnappings, and threats are also intensifying in these times, aggravated by the state of emergency. Right-wing presidents are assum-



ing sovereign powers protected by decrees without parliamentary political control, and with overtones of authoritarianism and exclusion.

Our articulated responses

The organizations and movements that are together in our articulation, and which are committed to a collective and democratic construction within the framework of the *Jornada Continental* for Democracy and Against Neoliberalism, have delivered responses based on our capacities and the specificities of each of our platforms. In this path of action and construction, the expression of internationalist solidarity has been fundamental as a necessary condition and possibility to face the authoritarianism, fascism, and attacks on peoples that have become more acute during the pandemic.



Our actions and responses have been framed in the anti-patriarchal and anti-racist struggle to advance toward a feminist economy in which the sustainability of life and the recognition of care work are at the center. These include the struggles for a universal basic income; the centrality of the role of workers and the protection of their rights as the basis for the responses for restraining the capital concentration; the campaigns to return to the countryside, for food sovereignty and agroecology; just recovery proposals based on popular solutions and principles grounded in environmental justice; anti-racist struggles and popular uprisings to confront all forms of violence against the peoples; among many others.

These proposals, initiatives, and responses are part of our actions within the *Jornada Continental*, continuing the process of unitary articulation in diversity. Our actions as organizations and movements are synchronized and nurtured with each of the actions and proposals, always with the vision of facing jointly the neoliberal attacks, and building emancipatory initiatives from, for, and with the peoples. Our

challenge is to advance in building concrete spaces of unity among the different expressions in our territories, regions, and countries, where we are putting into practice the spirit of solidarity that calls us as peoples in struggle.

Our articulated agenda

Giving continuity to the action process for 2020, as defined in the roadmap that was agreed upon at the Anti-Imperialist Solidarity Encounter for Democracy and against Neoliberalism, held last November in Havana, Cuba, and in response to the emergencies arising from the crisis intensified by the measures taken in response to COVID-19, the coordination of our agenda has had an important development in this second semester, with different activities.

Among them, there is the follow-up to the elections in Bolivia and the referendum for constitutional change in Chile, both of which will be held in October, as well as the elections in United States in November. We will also remain alert and in solidarity against the aggressions toward Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, considering that the electoral scenario in United States could trigger actions of interference and imperialist intervention toward these countries. The #PueblosSobranosPueblosSolidarios Campaign, articulated mainly by La Via Campesina, is also currently being developed.

In the month of October, we will be having the Anti-Imperialist Day of Action promoted by the International Peoples' Assembly, the closing of the 5th International Action of the World March of Women, the Week of Global Action

against Debt convened by Jubilee South-/Americas, and the World Day for Decent Work (October 7) organized by TUCA (Trade Union Confederation of Workers of the Americas).

This articulated agenda of solidarity reflects our commitment to the region and the Continent and it is based on the trust built in the process for a unitary, careful action toward advocacy and the struggles against the neoliberal model.

Day of collective action in November


Through this communication, and having shared our analysis of the context, the articulated responses that we have been doing as *Jornada Continental*, and the common agenda that we have developed based on our vision of unity in diversity, we call for the Days of Collective Action that we will be developing in the month of November, as a continental articulation.

They will be days for the mobilization of the peoples in rejection and denunciation of the neoliberal economic model, one that, we reiterate, is the current expression of capitalism and the structural cause of the crises and pandemics that we are living today; a paradigm to be abandoned if our horizon of recovery and dignity is based on and oriented by peoples' initiatives and their organizations and movements, which have shown to have answers and to build them in the heat of organized struggle.



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